

THE MILITARY MONITOR,

AND

AMERICAN REGISTER.

"THE PUBLIC GOOD OUR END."

VOL. I.]

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1812.

[No. 13

THE MILITARY MONITOR
AND
AMERICAN REGISTER,
By T. O'CONNOR AND S. WALL,
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NEW-YORK, 1812.

Official.

CIRCULAR TO COLLECTORS
TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Comptroller's Office, October, 1812.

SIR—As there is reason to think attempts may be made to evade the provisions of the act of the 6th of July last, to prohibit vessels of the United States from proceeding to or trading with the enemy, I have to call your attention to it with a view to its most vigilant execution.

It is evident from the terms or nature of this act, that one of its chief objects will be in constant danger of frustration unless the attempt to transport grain, flour, or any articles of provision, to Upper or Lower Canada, Nova Scotia or New-Brunswick, can, in the first instance, be detected. To this effect, you are particularly requested to omit no scrutiny, in the case of every vessel, foreign as well as of the United States, about to leave your district, laden with provisions, by which you may be the better enabled to ascertain the genuine character and intention of the voyage; and wherever there is probable cause to suspect a design to violate the law in this respect, of which your sound discretion will always judge, you will lose no time in exercising

the power, to seize and stop, given in the third section.

You are addressed upon this point, at this moment, with a view to stimulate your activity towards a strict enforcement of the law, which can only be kept from falling through, in this important particular, by the utmost previous caution.

I am, very respectfully-

Your obedient servant,

GAZETTE OFFICE,

Albany, Friday Evening, Oct. 30.

Copy of a hand-bill printed at the Budget Office, Troy, this day.

Troy, October 30.

The following from Capt. Lyon was received in this village by last evening's northern mail.

French Mills, 24th Oct. 1812.

SIR—By permission of Major Young, I forward you an extract from the official account of the rencontre at St. Regis, on the 22d inst. I wish you to have the goodness to hand it for publication after perusal. Yours, &c. O. LYON.

Head-Quarters, Camp, French Mills.

24th October, 1812.

"On the 22d, I despatched several confidential friends to reconnoitre about the village of St. Regis; they returned with the information that the enemy had landed in the village, and that we might expect a visit from them immediately—Their number was stated by no one at less than 110, and from that to 300; the most certain information fixed on the former number. It was also believed that the enemy were determined to make a stand at that place, and would speedily increase their number. This determined me to make an attempt to take out those already landed, before any reinforcement could arrive. I ordered the men to be furnished with two day's rations of provisions, with double rations of whiskey; and at 11 at night we marched out with the utmost silence, that we might give as little alarm as possible. We took a cir-

cuitous route through the woods, and arrived at Gray's Mills at half past 3, A.

M. We found here a boat, a small canoe, and two cribs of boards. Capt. Lyon's company crossed in the boats; Captain M'Niel's in the canoe, and the remainder, with our horses, crossed on the cribs. We arrived within half a mile of the village at 5 o'clock, where, being concealed from the enemy by a little rise of ground, we halted to reconnoitre, refresh the men, and make our disposition for the attack, which was arranged in the following order:

Capt. Lyon was detached from the right with orders to take the road running along the bank of the St. Regis river, with directions to gain the rear of Capt. Montaigny's house, in which, and Bonally's the enemy were said to be quartered. Capt. Tilden was detached to the St. Lawrence, with a view of gaining the route of Donally's house, and also securing the enemy's boats, (expected to have been stationed there) to prevent their retreat. With the remainder of the force I moved on in front, and arrived within 150 yards of Montaigny's house, when I found, by the firing, that Capt. Lyon was engaged; at the same instant I discovered a person passing in the front, and ordered him to stand; but not being obeyed, ordered Capt. Higbies first platoon to fire, and the poor fellow soon fell. He proved to be the ensign named in the list of killed. The firing was at an end in an instant, and we soon found in our possession 40 prisoners, with their arms, equipments, &c.

[Here follows a list of killed, 4 in number, and one wounded mortally—Equipments, 1 stand colours, 2 batteaux, 28 guns, &c.]

"After searching in vain for further military stores, we crossed the river at the village, and returned to camp by the nearest route, where we arrived at 11 A. M. The batteaux with baggage, &c.

arrived a few minutes before us. We had not a man hurt, I cannot close this letter without stating to your excellency that the officers and soldiers for their conduct on this occasion deserve the highest encomiums; for so strict was their attention to duty and orders, that we entered the place without even being heard by the Indian's dogs. The prisoners I have just sent off to Plattsburg, to await the disposition of your excellency.

I am very respectfully, your excellency's most ob't humble servant.

G. D. YOUNG Major.

Commanding the troops stationed at F. Mills.

Brig. Gen. Bloomfield.

Commanding advanced N. Army.

Fort Niagara. Oct 15 1812.

GARRISON ORDERS.

It is with the greatest satisfaction the commanding officer gives to capt. M'Keon his full approbation, for his spirited and judicious conduct during the severe cannonading from Fort George and the batteries on the opposite side of the river, against this post for seven hours on the 13th inst. To Dr. West, he begs to express his sincere thanks for the assistance received from him. To the non-commissioned officers & privates of the garrison, they have his full approbation for their cool and determined courage, and their zeal and activity during the day.

N. LEONARD.

captain commanding Fort Niagara.

Colonel PIKE, officer of the day. October 15—Reports to brigadier general Bloomfield, commanding the advance of the Northern army, that the troops began to come on the field for the execution of Richard Honion and John Wilson, soldiers of the 15th infantry, U. S. army, sentenced to death for "*desertion towards the enemy*," in pursuance of general orders of the 13th inst. at 3 o'clock, in the following order, viz: The light artillery forming the right front flank of the square, the 6th infantry and part of the 11th the right flank, the remainder of the 11th, the 15th, 21st and 9th, with part of the detached Vermont militia, formed the base of the parallelogram, part of the latter troops, the honorable *Silver Greys*, and a battalion of the country militia and volunteer riflemen the left flank; the detached artillery commanded by col Thorn, captain Brook's company 2d artillery, captain Elliott's artillery, and the volunteer cavalry the left front flank of the square. At four the convict attended by the reverend Mr. Rowley of the Baptist

church and Draper of the Methodist church, followed by all the prisoners in the provost guard, were marched (accompanied by the music of the line playing the dead march in Saul) to the place of execution, when the front of the guard wheeled to the right and left, and the two unfortunate men were marched forward to the butt, and kneeled on their coffins, when the reverend Mr. Rowley made a most eloquent and affecting prayer, the clergy then bid their charges adieu, and I removed Wilson, the man whom your clemency had thought proper to spare, under the color that one only could be executed at the same time. Henion then kneeled and suffered the sentence of the law at half past four, by the usual means. Immediately after which Wilson was bro't forward, and the pardon read to him, which was received with great apparent contrition by the unfortunate man, and satisfaction by the surrounding troops; it was then read at the head of each corps there assembled, when they respectively wheeled off and marched to their posts.

Z W PIKE Col. 15th Regt.
and field officer of the day.

Head Quarters, Plattsburgh, Oct, 15 1812.

AFTER ORDER.

In consideration of the youth and contrition of John Wilson, now under sentence of death for desertion—that he was enticed to desert by Richard Henion, also under sentence of death for the same crime, and the members of the court martial who tried the said prisoners, have recommended the said John Wilson for pardon.

General Bloomfield is of opinion, that in the exercise of mercy in the case of the said John Wilson, he will be in the discharge of his duty, to grant a pardon—and therefore the said John Wilson is hereby pardoned and declared to be free, of and from, the execution of the sentence of death passed upon him, consequent upon his conviction and sentence—and orders that the said John Wilson be discharged accordingly, and return to the duties of a private soldier, in the fifteenth regiment of infantry.

By order.

R. STERRY—*Aid de Camp.*

[*Per the Portuguese brig Lebra.*]

To the American owners, supercargoes and masters of vessels now lying in the bay of Funchal, Madeira.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to inform you that Capt. Skeene of his Britannic Majesty's ship *Minden*, called at my house and in the politest term promised to give me up the part of the crew of the *Amsterdam*

Packet, captured by, and now on board the ship under his command, provided I would give him a proper receipt stating that they should be exchanged for as many British subjects of the same rank, should the war continue, which I immediately agreed to do. He likewise declared that he would respect the neutrality of this port, and that the American vessels now in port might remain in the greatest security, as he would by no means molest them; at the same time expressing his wish that American armed vessels may be actuated by the same motives. He likewise informs me that it is the general opinion in England, as it is the greatest wish, that matters will speedily be amicably adjusted between our two nations.

If this information will be of use to any of you, my object is obtained, and in the mean time, I continue, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Consulate of the U. S. of America,
Madeira, Aug. 30th. 1812.

CONGRESS.

IN SENATE.

Monday, November 2.

This being the day fixed on by the law for the meeting of Congress, about 12 o'clock Wm. H. Crawford, Esq. of Georgia, the President *pro tempore* of the Senate, took the chair.

Eighteen members appeared but not being a quorum of the whole number, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow morning, eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, November 2.

About 12 o'clock, Henry Clay, Esq. the Speaker, took the chair; and the roll being called, the Speaker declared the house to be formed.

On motion of Mr. Macon, a committee was appointed to inform the Senate, that the house was formed and ready to proceed to business.

On motion of Mr. Dawson, a committee was appointed, jointly with such committee as should be appointed by the Senate, to wait on the President of the United States, and inform him that they were formed and ready to receive any communication he might have to make.

No communication having been received from the Senate—

The House adjourned to to-morrow morning.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

MESSAGE.

The President of the United States on Wednesday, communicated by Mr. Coles, his Private Secretary, the following Message to Congress:

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives.

On our present meeting it is my first duty to invite your attention to the Providential favour which our country has experienced, in the unusual degree of health dispensed to its inhabitants, and in the rich abundance with which the earth has rewarded the labors bestowed on it. In the successful cultivation of other branches of industry, and in the progress of general improvement favorable to the national prosperity, there is just occasion, also, for our mutual congratulations and thankfulness.

With these blessings are necessarily mingled the pressures and vicissitudes incidental to the state of war, into which the United States have been forced by the perseverance of a foreign power, in its system of injustice and aggression.

Previous to its declaration, it was deemed proper, as a measure of precaution and forecast, that a considerable force should be placed in the Michigan territory, with a general view to its security, and, in the event of war, to such operations in the uppermost Canada as would intercept the hostile influence of Great Britain over the savages, obtain the command of the lake on which that part of Canada borders, and maintain co-operating relations with such forces as might be most conveniently employed against other parts. Brigadier General Hull was charged with this provisional service; having under his command a body of troops composed of regulars and of volunteers from the state of Ohio. Having reached his destination after his knowledge of the war, and possessing discretionary authority to act offensively, he passed into the neighbouring territory of the enemy with a prospect of easy and victorious progress. The expedition nevertheless terminated unfortunately, not only in a retreat to the town and fort of Detroit, but in the surrender of both, and of the gallant corps commanded by that officer. The causes of this painful reverse will be investigated by a military tribunal.

A distinguishing feature in the operations which preceded and followed this adverse event, is the use made by the enemy of the merciless savages under their influence.—Whilst the benevolent policy of the United States, invariably recommended peace and promoted civilization, among that wretched portion of the human race; and was making exertions to dissuade them from taking either side in the war, the enemy has not scrupled to call in his aid their ruthless ferocity, armed with the horror of those instruments of carnage and torture which are known to spare neither age nor sex. In this outrage against the laws of honourable war, and against the feelings sacred to humanity, the British commanders cannot resort to a plea of retaliation; for it is committed in the face of our example. They cannot mitigate it by calling it a self-defence against men in arms; for it embraces the most shocking butcheries of defenceless families. Nor can it be pretended that they are not answerable for the atrocities perpetrated; since the savages are employed with knowledge, and even with menaces, that their

fury could not be controlled. Such is the spectacle which the deputed authorities of a nation, boasting its religion and morality, have not been restrained from presenting to an enlightened age.

The misfortune at Detroit was not however, without a consoling effect. It was followed by signal proofs, that the national spirit rises according to the pressure on it. The loss of an important post, and of the brave men surrendered with it, inspired every where new ardor and determination. In the states and districts least remote, it was no sooner known, than every citizen was ready to fly with his arms, at once to protect his brethren against the blood-thirsty savages let loose by the enemy on an extensive frontier; and to convert a partial calamity into a source of invigorated efforts. This patriotic zeal, which it was rather necessary to limit than excite, has embodied an ample force from the states of Kentucky and Ohio, and from parts of Pennsylvania and Virginia. It is placed, with the exception of a few regulars, under the command of Brigadier General Harrison, who possesses the entire confidence of his fellow soldiers, among whom are citizens, some of them volunteers in the ranks, not less distinguished by their political stations, than by their personal merits. The greater portion of this force is proceeding on its destination, towards the Michigan territory, having succeeded in relieving an important frontier post, and, in several incidental operations against hostile tribes of savages, rendered indispensable by the subserviency into which they had been seduced by the enemy; a seduction the more cruel, as it could not fail to impose a necessity of precautionary severities, against those who yielded to it.

At a recent date, an attack was made on a post of the enemy near Niagara, by a detachment of the regular and other forces, under the command of major general Van Rensselaer of the militia of the state of New-York. The attack, it appears, was ordered in compliance with the ardor of the troops, who executed it with distinguished gallantry and were for a time victorious; but not receiving the expected support, they were compelled to yield to reinforcements of British regulars and savages. Our loss has been considerable and is deeply to be lamented.—That of the enemy, less ascertained, will be the more felt, as it includes, among the killed, the commanding general, who was also the Governor of the Province; and was sustained by veteran troops, from inexperienced soldiers, who must daily improve in the duties of the field.

Our expectation of gaining the command of the lakes, by the invasion of Canada from Detroit, having been disappointed, measures were instantly taken to provide, on them, a naval force superior to that of the enemy.—From the talents and activity of the Officer charged with this object, every thing that can be done may be expected. Should the present season not admit of complete success, the progress made will ensure for the next a naval ascendancy, where it is essential to our permanent peace with, and control over, the savages.

Among the incidents to the measures of the war, I am constrained to advert to the refusal of the Governors of Massachusetts and Connecticut, to furnish the required detachments of militia towards the defence of the maritime frontier. The refusal was founded on a novel and unfortunate exposition of the provisions of

the constitution, relating to the militia. The correspondences which will be before you, contain the requisite information on the subject.—It is obvious, that if the authority of the U. States to call into service and command the militia for the public defence, can be thus frustrated, even in a state of declared war, and of course under apprehensions of invasion preceding war, they are not one nation for the purpose most of all requiring it; and that the public safety may have no other resource, than in those large and permanent military establishments which are forbidden by the principles of our free government, and against the necessity of which the militia were meant to act as a constitutional bulwark.

On the coasts, and on the ocean, the war has been as successful as circumstances inseparable from its early stages could promise.—Our public ships and private cruisers, by their activity, and where there was occasion, by their intrepidity, have made the enemy sensible of the difference between a reciprocity of captures, and the long confinement of them to their side. Our trade, with little exception, has safely reached our ports; having been much favored in it by the course pursued by a squadron of our frigates, under the command of commodore Rodgers. And in the instance, in which skill and bravery were more particularly tried with those of the enemy, the American flag had an auspicious triumph. The frigate Constitution commanded by capt. Hull, after a close and short engagement, completely disabled and captured a British frigate; gaining for that officer and all on board, a praise which cannot be too liberally bestowed; not merely for the victory actually achieved, but for that prompt and cool exertion of commanding talents, which, giving to courage its highest character, and to the force applied its full effect, proved that more could have been done in a contest requiring more.

Anxious to abridge the evils from which a state of war cannot be exempt, I lost no time after it was declared in conveying to the British government the terms on which its progress might be arrested, without waiting the delays of a formal and final pacification. And our charge d'affaires at London was, at the same time, authorised to agree to an armistice founded upon them. These terms required, that the orders in council should be repealed as they affected the United States, without a revival of blockades violating acknowledged rules; that there should be an immediate discharge of American seamen from British ships; and a stop to impressments from American ships, with an understanding that an exclusion of the seamen of each nation from ships of the other should be stipulated; and that the armistice should be improved into a definitive and comprehensive adjustment of the depending controversies. Although a repeal of those orders susceptible of explanations meeting the views of this government, had taken place before this pacific advance was communicated to that of Great B. the advance was declined, from an avowed repugnance to a suspension of the practice of impressment during the armistice, and without any intimation that the arrangement proposed with respect to seamen would be accepted. Whether the subsequent communications from the government, affording an occasion for re-considering the subject, on the part of Great Britain, will be viewed in a more favourable light, or received in a more accommodating spirit, remain to be known. It would

be unwise to relax our measures, in any respect on a presumption of such a result.

The documents from the Department of State, which relate to this subject, will give a view also of the propositions, for an armistice, which have been received here, one of them, from the authorities at Halifax & in Canada, the other from the British government itself, through Admiral Warren; and of the grounds upon which neither of them could be accepted.

Our affairs with France retain the posture which they held at my last communications to you. Notwithstanding the authorised expectation of an early as well as favourable issue to the discussions on foot; these have been procrastinated to the latest date. The only intervening occurrence meriting attention, is the promulgation of a French Decree purporting to be a definitive repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees. This proceeding, although made the ground of the revocation of the British orders in council, is rendered, by the time and manner of it, liable to many objections.

The final communications from our special Minister to Denmark, afford further proofs of the good effects of his mission, and of the amicable disposition of the Danish government. From Russia we have the satisfaction to receive assurances of continued friendship, and that it will not be affected by the rupture between the United States and G. Britain.—Sweden also professes sentiments favourable to the subsisting harmony.

With the Barbary powers, excepting that of Algiers, our affairs remain, on the ordinary footing. The Consul General residing with that Regency, has suddenly and without cause, been banished, together with all the American citizens found there. Whether this was the transitory effect of capricious despotism, or the first act of pre-determined hostility is not ascertained. Precautions were taken by the Consul, on the latter supposition.

The Indian tribes, not under foreign instigations, remain at peace, and receive the civilizing attentions, which have proved so beneficial to them.

With a view to that vigorous prosecution of the war, to which our national faculties are adequate, the attention of Congress will be particularly drawn to the insufficiency of the existing provisions for filling up the military establishment. Such is the happy condition of our country, arising from the facility of subsistence and the high wages for every species of occupation, that, notwithstanding the augmented inducements provided at the last session, a partial success only has attended the recruiting service. The deficiency has been necessarily supplied during the campaign, by other than regular troops, with all the inconveniences and expences incident to them. The remedy lies, in establishing, more favourably for the private soldier, the proportion between his recompense and the term of his enlistment. And it is a subject which cannot too soon or too seriously be taken into consideration.

The same insufficiency has been experienced in the provisions for volunteers made by an act of the last session. The recompense for the service required in this case, is still less attractive than in the other. And although patriotism alone has sent into the field some valuable corps of that description, those alone who can afford the sacrifice, can reasonably be expected to yield to that impulse.

It will merit consideration also whether, as auxiliary to the security of our frontier, corps

may not be advantageously organized, with a restriction of their services to particular districts convenient to them. And whether the local and occasional services of mariners and others in the sea-port towns, under a similar organization, would not be a provident addition to the means of their defence.

I recommend a provision for an increase of the general officers of the army, the deficiency of which has been illustrated by the number and distance of separate commands, which the course of war and the advantage of the service have required.

And I cannot press too strongly, on the earliest attention of the Legislature, the importance of the re-organization of the staff establishment; with a view to render more distinct and definite the relations and responsibility of its several departments. That there is room for improvements which will materially promote both economy and success, in what appertains to the army and the war, is equally inculcated by the examples of other countries, and by the experience of our own.

A revision of the militia laws for the purpose of rendering them more systematic, and better adapting them to emergencies of the war, is at this time particularly desirable.

Of the additional ships authorized to be fitted for service, two will be shortly ready to sail; a third is under repair, & delay will be avoided in the repair of the residue. Of the appropriations for the purchase of materials for ship-building, the greater part has been applied to that object, and the purchases will be continued with the balance.

The enterprising spirit which has characterized our naval force, and its success both in restraining insults and depredations on our coasts, and in reprisals on the enemy, will not fail to recommend an enlargement of it.

There being reason to believe that the act prohibiting the acceptance of British licences, is not a sufficient guard against the use of them for purposes favorable to the interests & views of the enemy; further provisions on that subject are highly important. Nor is it less so, that penal enactments should be provided for cases of corrupt and perfidious intercourse with the enemy, not amounting to treason, nor yet embraced by any statutory provisions.

A considerable number of American vessels, which were in England when the revocation of the Orders in Council took place, were laden with British manufactures, under an erroneous impression that the non-importation act would immediately cease to operate, and have arrived in the United States. It did not appear proper to exercise, on unforeseen cases of such magnitude, the ordinary powers vested in the treasury department to mitigate forfeitures, without previously affording to Congress an opportunity of making on the subject such provisions as they may think proper. In their decision they will doubtless equally consult what is due to equitable considerations and to the public interest.

The receipts into the treasury, during the year ending on the 30th of September last, have exceeded sixteen millions and a half of dollars; which have been sufficient to defray all the demands on the treasury to that day, including a necessary reimbursement of near three millions of the principal of the public debt. In these receipts is included a sum of near \$5,850,000, received on account of the loans authorized by the acts of the last session; the whole sum actually obtained on loans amounts to eleven millions of dollars, the re-

sidue of which, being receivable subsequent to the 30th of September last, will together with the current revenue, enable us to defray all the expences of this year.

The duties on the late unexpected importations of British manufactures, will render the revenue of the ensuing year more productive than could have been anticipated.

The situation of our country, fellow-citizens, is not without difficulties; though it abounds in animating considerations of which the view here presented of our pecuniary resources is an example. With more than one nation, we have serious and unsettled controversies; and with one, powerful in the means and habits of war, we are at war. The spirit and strength of this nation are nevertheless equal to the support of all its rights and to carry it through all its trials. They can be met in that confidence. Above all we have the inestimable consolation of knowing, that the war in which we are actually engaged is a war neither of ambition nor of vain glory; that it is waged, not in violation of the rights of others, but in the maintenance of our own; that it was preceded by a patience without example, under wrongs accumulating without end; and that it was finally not declared until every hope of averting it was extinguished, by the transfer of the British sceptre into new hands clinging to former councils; and until declarations were reiterated to the last hour through the British envoy here, that the hostile edicts against our commercial rights and our maritime independence would not be revoked; nay that they could not be revoked, without violating the obligations of G. Britain to other powers, as well as to her own interests.

To have shrunk, under such circumstances, from manly resistance, would have been a degradation blasting our best and proudest hopes; it would have struck us from the high rank, where the virtuous struggles of our fathers had placed us, and have betrayed the legacy which we hold in trust for future generations. It would have acknowledged, that on the element, which forms three-fourths of the globe we inhabit, and where all independent nations have equal and common right, the American people were not an independent people, but colonists and vassals. It was at this moment, and with such an alternative, that war was chosen.

The nation felt the necessity of it, and called for it. The appeal was accordingly made, in a just cause, to the just and all powerful Being who holds in his hand the chain of events and the destiny of nations. It remains only, that, faithful to ourselves, entangled in no connections with the views of other powers, and ever ready to accept peace from the hand of justice, we prosecute the war with united counsels and with the ample faculties of the nation, until peace be so obtained, and as the only means under the divine blessing of speedily obtaining it.

JAMES MADISON.

November 4, 1812.

FOR THE MILITARY MONITOR.

THE ART OF WAR.—No. I.

The Art of War has become a part of modern education, the knowledge of which should not be neglected by any; for although "undisciplined valor may

sometimes conquer" yet it is imprudent to trust to it, and humanity dictates the policy of preparing the citizens not to depend on mere courage in resisting invasion or punishing aggression: it is true, valor, especially if supported by numbers, may destroy an enemy, such cannot however be expected without a sacrifice which every consideration forbids. I shall therefore lay it down as a good position, that a knowledge of military tactics ought to form a part of the instruction of the people, for of what avail is it to make good and wholesome laws, to form a charter of rights and liberty, if we do not provide a safe-guard against the encroachments and possible attacks of foreign powers and envious princes; this safe-guard consists in the natural power of the people rendered strong by artificial means; and these means consist principally in the possession of arms and a *knowledge of their use*. With a view of adding a soldier's mite to this necessary instruction, I will occasionally offer some observations on the duties of officers and men, and afterwards will proceed to other necessary hints, for such must be mine compared to the scale on which military tactics ought to be taught in a *national Military School*—and first of

GENERAL OFFICERS.

No man is properly fitted to be a general officer, especially to act as commander in chief, unless he has acquired a competent education. The illiterate soldier, acting as a private, may learn his duty, but such cannot be expected from him if advanced to the grade of a General Officer. A General Officer must be well acquainted with Geography; he must know the relative situations of military posts, towns, cities, and fortresses as far as the same can be procured from books and maps—a more minute information (not less necessary) can be had only by correspondence, spies, guides, and sometimes by personal reconnoitering. Charles the 12th. of Sweden, when looking over a map, on being asked what he was doing, replied that he was tracing the roads to the principal cities of Europe; and, latterly, we find Bonaparte tracing the course of a river, disguised in a polish dress. A mere reference to the best map will give but a very inadequate knowledge of a country, several very necessary observations escape the notice of the typographer, as the depths of rivers, the fords and bridges, the width and strength of roads, strong military positions, difficult passes, hills, morasses, woods, &c. and many of these may become more or less varied by floods earthquakes &c. The General who invades an enemy's country must

be particularly acquainted with every inch of ground over which his army is to travel, else he leaves to the opposing General an advantage that may produce the greatest calamity.

In order to obtain the necessary topographical knowledge of a country, the general must be a man of sound discernment, he must be a man who, from much converse with books and men, has learned to distinguish intended treachery from honest loyalty; he must be able to read the mind in the man's face—he must be quick of perception, and distrustful of every person, not so far as to preclude the aid of individuals, but to guard himself against deception—he must have his information, if possible, from many, and carefully compare the different accounts, seeking constantly for the cause of every disagreement in their relations.—Spies, guides & scouts must be frequently altered, lest the enemy should become acquainted with them, and perhaps bribe them to betray their employers. In every country there will easily be found persons capable of being guides, and on whom much dependence may be placed, provided they are well paid and not employed for any long time.

It is by this minute information that a Commander is enabled to plan the mode of march, what should be the number and strength of the marching columns; what roads should the artillery pass by; what, the foot; and what, the cavalry; where an enemy may most probably make an attack; and where it is easiest to attack him with success—without this knowledge an advancing army, particularly in a woody country, is liable to fall into situations where it may in a moment be destroyed, or may be exposed to great danger, from not knowing the situation, numbers, or resources of an enemy; all which may often be very accurately ascertained by the officer of penetration, through means of spies and guides.

Another and an important reason why Commanders of armies should be well informed as to the country into which they advance, is that it is only thus they can judge the probable movements of the enemy which must ever be influenced by the nature of the ground—there are numerous instances of generals losing the best opportunities of defeating an enemy through want of knowing the ground of approach, not choosing the best passage, or attempting one of the greatest difficulty—while whole armies have been destroyed by an unwise division of columns and want of knowing the force or direction of the enemy—this seldom happens except when an advancing army, not acquainted with the coun-

try, leaves some important pass unobserved or unoccupied.

Without this knowledge, it would be impossible to chose a good situation for an engagement; and it would, in case of a retreat, be of the worst possible consequence—It does not always happen that a defeated army can retreat by the same rout through which it advanced, nor can there be a more deplorable situation than that of an unfortunate army retreating through a country, with the situation of which the commanding officer is unacquainted.

There is nothing in which the general's military talent is more necessary than in conducting a retreat, and this depends not only on a knowledge of the country through which he must pass, but also on making an early disposition of the proper means of conducting it. For want of steady and trusty boatmen, several of the soldiers, who passed the river to attack the British in the late battle of Queenston, were prevented from returning and became prisoners of war—This is not instanced in order to throw blame on the very respectable general officer who conducted that attack, but to show how necessary it is to provide for a retreat even when the most flattering prospects of success present themselves, and that there are no persons attached to an army whose fidelity and firmness should be more studied than those on whose exertions a retreat may chiefly depend.

It becomes the duty of a general officer to know that his army is properly provided with forage, munitions of war, &c. to advance without these is an error for which there can be no excuse—to advance with an army not sufficient to justify an attack on the enemy, is an error nearly as unpardonable as the former, and can be excused only by an actual impossibility of ascertaining the force of the enemy, and being from very excusable causes, led to mistake it. Both these disadvantages are stated to have operated against general Hull, in his invasion of Canada.

There are other duties of a General Officer which, being connected with the various dispositions of an army, will more properly be explained when we come to the different heads under which this subject must be treated.

A VETERAN.

FOR THE MILITARY MONITOR.

MESSRS. EDITORS,

Having observed, in one of the public papers of the week, an account of a lecture delivered by a Mr. Colles, at the Government or custom house in this city, on Telegraphs, and (I presume)

their utility; and, tho' not acquainted with Mr. Colles or his merits, the importance of the subject arrested my attention: as a matter that may be of great national importance, I conceive it entitled to the most serious consideration, in the present critical state of our country.

And here to uninformed minds I might say, and with some considerable plausibility, that the honor of the invention was due to France, in an early stage of her revolution, and, in so saying, I might be believed; but a regard to science and to the veracity of history, as well as a veneration for departed greatness, compels me to say, that telegraphs or some instruments of a similar nature, were known to the Greeks, in the days of their glory and during the existence of that patriotic virtue that strung their arms to resist the Persians, for we find that victories, gained in a forenoon over the Persians, as well by sea as by land, have been known, before night, at a distance of some hundreds of miles from the scene of action, which could not have been effected but by telegraphic dispatch; and indeed the very name proves it of Greek origin, but the history of the wars of Scipio, by Polibius the Grecian, puts the question beyond all doubt, as he there particularly describes the machine to be used as well as the mode of using it, and makes some very impressive remarks upon its importance to a nation.—With the decline of the Romans, Telegraphs seemed to decline also, we perceive some faint traits of something of the kind being in use among the Saxons, the ancient Germans, and Cambro Britons, as well as among the Picts, and Irish in their wars with the Danes, when they communicated with each other from the tops of hills and of strong square incombustible castles by fires and lights; even this mode seemed lost, and a knowledge or recollection of its having existed was only preserved in the rude histories of them dark and sanguinary ages, thus then it seemed to have gone to rest until a Frenchman of considerable ingenuity and research, called it up and resuscitated it.* The aid of modern improvement and application has made it a matter of great national benefit and importance in Europe, where, from their general and incessant wars, its necessity and importance in making speedy communications to countries remote, is far greater than it possibly could be here were we not engaged in war, which being the case, it follows, that telegraphs, as a quick mode of making military communications, must be a matter of prime necessity and interest to us while so engaged. Could you, Messrs. Editors, by way of obliging

your military friends procure from the ingenious captn. Bompard at the laboratory a communication of his ideas on the best mode of constructing and using them, from Mr. Keen the patentee of one mode of constructing & applying them, or from Robert Fulton Esqr. whose unrivalled scientific acquirements & unobtrusive modest worth and talents fit him pre-eminently for the task, you would be conferring a benefit on the community by adding to their stock of military and general knowledge, & would serve essentially many

A SOLDIER.

* The ingenious Richard Lovell Edgeworth, Esq. erected a Telegraph, several years ago, in the North of Ireland and another in Scotland, by which communications were made between the two places, distant from each other, about 20 miles. This happened before the French revolution, and consequently before the use of Telegraphs in France; but, being done for amusement, was discontinued and soon forgotten.

EDITORS

The Military Monitor.

NEW-YORK.

MONDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 9, 1812.

TO SUBSCRIBERS, who have not paid the advance subscription to our paper, are requested to comply with the terms of publication.

To the exclusion of our weekly SUMMARY and much other matter intended for this number, we give the long and perspicuous Message of the President of the United States to Congress. This comprehensive detail of the national concerns must prove truly interesting to every reader. We may probably, in a future number, offer some observations on this luminous state paper, which our present limits will not permit us to essay.

The battle of Queenston and the fate of the Wasp, although both unfortunate to America, establish two facts—the Americans can, with equal numbers fight, and, what is still better, defeat *John Bull*, both by land and by sea.

REPEAL OF THE LAW DECLARING WAR AGAINST GREAT BRITAIN.—This seems to be one of the proposed modes of terminating the war: it is not here intended to question the political probity of the advocates for the repeal, but we must be allowed to differ with them as to the prudence of seeking peace in this manner.

"As you were" would be a dangerous order for the United States, but a repeal of the war-law would render our situation not as we were, but incalculably worse. Before the declaration of war the British, under the operation of illegal edicts, seized and confiscated a vast proportion of American property, and thus they continued to do to the moment when the Americans were compelled to appeal to the "dernier resort"—war was declared; and the law, which gave to America the right to resist and make reprisals, also justified any future course which England might choose to adopt.—The right which England acquired, by a de-

clared state of hostility, will be taken all possible advantage of by her, and she will continue to act on it as long as her interest or safety will permit; she may be driven into an equitable peace by force, or she may be frightened into it by the fear of force, but a formal peace must be acquired by treaty, it cannot be obtained otherwise.

If the United States are at war with England, surely England must be at war with the United States: how then would we stand in relation to England, after the repeal of the war-law? this can be answered only by a view of what would be our situation after the repeal compared to what it was before the declaration of war.

The newly created edicts, by virtue of which England plundered Americans before the war, were, by general concurrence, contrary to the general law of nations, nor did even the aggressor seek for justification on any acknowledged general principle. The aggressions, although great, were limited, and confined to the ocean: such was the state of English hostility before the war. What would be the relative situation of Americans and Britons on the repeal of the war-law? why, indisputably this. The United States would no longer be at war; but England would be at war, because our law cannot be imperative on the enemy, and can be so only on ourselves. The United States should disarm her citizens, while the British might, by the laws of war and nations, continue her acts of hostility; nay, she might even invade our territory; and, by forcing the citizens into an attitude of armed defence, place them again, and in fact, at war, although without, or more properly against law; for the repeal of the war-law, without a change of any of the causes which induced it, would be a declaration of its impolicy, and a forbidding of its practice. The idea of a repeal of the act declaring war against great Britain, without some previous security that England would also cease hostilities against the United States, is an absurdity too glaring to merit refutation. At this particular period, when Congress are in the commencement of a session, we have taken this short view of the subject, although at the risk of being censured for thus perhaps unnecessarily occupying our columns with the discussion.

DOUBLE DUTIES.—The opinion, too generally entertained, that the consumer pays the duties, seems much to prevail in respect to the double duties now payable on imported goods. There was a time when the citizens of the U. States, depended nearly entirely for clothing and manufactures on the foreign market, then it might, with some propriety, be said, that the consumer paid the duty, because the citizen could not dispense with the foreign supply; and the foreigner, aware of this, demanded and received an adequate price for his goods; but now circumstances are altered.—The Americans manufacture for themselves nearly enough for their home consumption, in so much, that a temporary suspension of all foreign intercourse would, as respects manufactures, create no serious inconvenience. From this the reader will easily perceive that the British manufacturer must dispose of his goods at a price so low that the merchant may be enabled to sell at New-York, at least as cheap as the American manufacturer, this can be done only by deducting at least half the present duties from the price usually paid to the British manufacturer, and thus leaving the starving manufacturers of Yorkshire and every

other British shire to contribute largely to our war taxes.

It is generally supposed that the import duties, during the first year of war will amount to \$20,000,000. It is not extravagant to suppose that one fourth of this will arise from British manufactures, exclusive of the cargoes of captured vessels; and of course, that John Bull will contribute \$2,500,000 in one year towards the American fund for the conquest of Canada.

Promotions.—The following officers of the old army have received brevet commissions of one grade in advance of their present rank, under an act passed at the last session of Congress, authorising the issuing brevet commissions to all officers who shall have served for ten years in any one grade in the army.

Brig. Gen. James Wilkinson,
Col. Henry Burbeck,
Lt. Col. Constant Freeman,
Maj. Wm Mac Rae,
Maj. Zebulon Pike,
Capt. Nehemiah Freeman,
Capt. Lloyd Beall,
Capt. John Whistler,
Capt. Hugh McCall,

General Wilkinson of course now ranks as major-general by virtue of this promotion.

List of Enemy's vessels, captured & brought into port or destroyed by the public and private armed vessels of the U States.

200. Ship Mariana, from St. Croix for London, 600 tons, laden with sugar, &c. found deserted at sea by the Governor McKean of Philadelphia, and towed into Norfolk.

201. Brig——, laden with salt, sent into Portland by the privateer Teazer.

202. Brig——, captured by a whale-boat privateer, and brought into Portland—the vessel of war being carried to port on the deck of the prize!

203. Brig Isabella, 205 tons, one year old, laden with crockery ware, iron, &c. sent into Portland by the Teazer.

204. Ship——, laden with timber, bound for England, sent into Marblehead by the privateer Decatur.

205. Brig Diana, from London, sent into Portland, by the privateer Dart.

206., 207, 208, three vessels captured by the Dolphin of Baltimore, and burnt.

209, Ship John, 14 guns, 35 men, 400 tons burthen, from Demarara for Liverpool, laden with 742 bales cotton, 230 hhds. sugar, 105 puncheons of rum, 50 casks and 300 bags coffee, with a large quantity of old copper and dye wood, worth at least \$150,000 sent into Baltimore by the Comet of that port.

210, Ship Commerce, 14 guns, long nines—men, from 4 to 500 tons burthen, from Demarara for London, very richly laden with sugar, rum, cotton and coffee, and as valuable as the John, above mentioned, sent into Portland by the Decatur of Newburyport. The captain and several of the crew killed by the first broadside from the privateer.

211, Brig Industry, 10 guns—from Surinam with coffee, &c. sent Wilmington, N. C. by the Comet of Baltimore. 47 The Comet overhauled every vessel she chased during her cruise, and took every British vessel she saw; yet made only 4 prizes—but they were worth \$400,000 and have all safely arrived.

212. Privateer schooner Frances of Nassau, N. P. 4 guns and 30 men—a fine fast sailing

vessel, sent into Baltimore by the Dolphin of that port.

213. Privateer——, taken by the Rapid of Charleston, and burnt.

214. Brig Tor Abbey, laden with dry fish, sent into Cape Ann by the Thresher privateer. A valuable vessel.

215. Brig Mary from St. Johns for England, laden with timber, sent into Charleston by the Benjamin Franklin privateer.

216. Ship Princess Amelia, 8 guns, 9 pounders, 30 men, from the Leeward islands for England with the September mail, and several passengers; captured, after a very obstinate defence, by the Rossie of Baltimore and sent into Savannah.—The captain of the packet and one man killed and 7 wounded; and on board the Rossie, the first officer and 7 men wounded. The passengers in the packet speak in the most handsome terms of the polite treatment they received from com-Barney.

217. Brig——, laden with sugar, flour &c. and assorted cargo, sent into Portland by the Teazer privateer.

218. Brig——, from Madeira for London, laden with choice wine, sent into Newburyport by the Marengo of New-York.

219. Brig Orient, from Quebec for England, laden with timber, sent into Portland by the Teazer privateer.

Extracts.

From the Liverpool Advertiser of Aug. 8.

After a long period of fearful suspense and anxious expectation, the dispute between this country and America has at length reached a crisis, of which we have long since expressed our apprehensions.

The President of the United States has issued a formal and unqualified declaration of war, without leaving any alternative to negotiation or any opening to conciliation. The message of the President to Congress, preceding the discussions which ended in resolutions of hostility, has been published along with the declaration of war. It is undoubtedly one of the ablest State Papers which ever issued from the American Government, and must be allowed by every person who is capable of exercising any candor on the subject, to make out a very strong case against this country. Some of the accusations against us are, of course, highly exaggerated and others, perhaps admit of a satisfactory answer—but till the other side is heard it leaves a most irresistible impression in favor of the American cause. Unless great allowance is made for the peculiar circumstances of the case, and a great latitude of conduct is granted to the peculiar emergencies of our situation, no reply to the charges against us has any chance of being heard. On the received principles of public law and international jus-

tice, we have no chance of justification.

It has now become a matter of anxious inquiry, what effect will be produced on the American councils, by a knowledge of our revocations of the restrictive decrees, which have produced all this mischief. Those who would never believe that America would be exasperated into spontaneous hostility, by any accumulation of grievances, now affect to think that all her warlike denunciations will end in nothing. The very first intelligence of our altered policy, they think will as readily pacify her anger, as the sudden offer of a crust of bread will sometimes calm the rage of a provoked mastiff. This opinion if it is not founded on very superficial reasoning, is at least authorised by no experience. We can derive no consolation from reflecting on the progress of the last quarrel which took place between this country and America. In a commercial Republic, the love of gain is a strong principle, but the national pride of rising greatness is often much stronger. We cannot forget the reasonings and the feelings which prevailed at the opening of the last American war; and we cannot contemplate without great dismay their extreme similarity to those which prevail at present. When the ministry of that time, by a transition, which the proud usually experience when resolutely opposed, passed from the extreme of haughtiness to that of conciliation, every one must recollect the event. All the concessions which were then lavished on America, the smallest of which would have been sufficient to pacify her at an earlier period, were rejected with disdain when the sword was once drawn. After spending a hundred millions of money, and a waste of human life which admits of no calculation, we were obliged to descend to conditions which America herself had not presumed to hope for in the beginning of the contest.

Extract of a letter, dated Washington, Nov. 3.

“Col. R. M. Johnson has this moment arrived. The Northwestern army consists of 10,000 men. On the 25th inst. the necessary stores will be concentrated at proper points, and the army will march from the Rapids of the Miami of the Lake with 30 days provision for the ultimate object of the campaign, which is not less important than the boldest can wish. Its issue is as secure as any thing which is yet in the womb of futurity can be.”

Dem. Press.

Sailed Friday morning Nov. 6. from this port, on her second cruise, the beautiful private armed sch. Saratoga, capt. Wooster, mounting 18 guns, and carrying 130 men.

Columbian.

Norfolk, October 16.

The bravery and daring enterprise of our privateersmen has proved a severe scourge to the enemy upon that very element where he boasted of being invulnerable. Millions of British property have been brought into our ports, and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been added to the national revenue by the privateering system. The Western ocean already swarms with our privateers, and numbers are daily adding to the list. In this place a beautiful copper-bottomed brig of about 200 tons, mounting 12 12 pounders and two long nines, is now nearly ready for sea. In Washington (N. C.) two elegant schooners of 120 tons each, are also nearly ready for sea; and at Wiscasset, we learn, that a fine brig of 22 guns has just been completed; and the keel of a thirty-two gun ship laid, which was expected to be finished in a few days. Would it not be politic as well as patriotic in the Legislature at its next session, in order to reward and encourage such extraordinary activity and enterprise in our private sea-faring citizens, to allow a bounty for every prize that arrives safe within our ports, as a set-off against the enormous double duties which swallow up nearly all the fruits of the poor sailor's bravery and toil?

It is really singular to observe the similarity that exists between the events of the present war in Spain, and those that occurred in the same kingdom about a century ago, in the war called the war of the Succession. Philip V. the then candidate for the crown of that country, (in opposition to the archduke Charles of Austria) and grandson to Lewis XIV was twice obliged to leave Madrid his capital; and what is worthy of remark, the allied forces led by the English, are at present pursuing the very same plan and routes, assisted by the powerful diversions made by debarkations of land forces, in the northern and southern coasts of Spain, that was pursued at that time, by the combined armies composed of the same nations; the Spaniards being then as they now are a divided people. The issue, however, was, as it will probably prove in the present case, that after many years of hostilities and alternate successes, Spain and all the nations acknowledged Philip, a prince of the then ruling dynasty of France, as sovereign of that country; and these 2 monarchies formed afterwards a flourishing family compact, that rendered them very formidable to the tyrants of the sea. The final result of the present contest, will probably be of a nature very similar. [Chron.

The Military Supplies—Before the war, our readers will recollect we took various means to point out abuses and mismanagement, and some defects in the military arrangements; our efforts were not unsuccessful, and some incompetent officers have been exchanged for better and capable men; and many measures pursued which gave reason to expect more effective and salutary changes. As soon as the war commenced, we conceived that it would be aiding the enemy to expose the public weaknesses; and we forbore from that period to touch some evils, the existence of which in the nature of things must be corrected.

We have not been inattentive to those subjects, nevertheless, and it affords us some satisfaction to be able to say, that in the departments of supply, what has been accomplished since May last, is beyond any thing which the most sanguine expectations could conceive, upon a comparison with the manner in which the army supplies were provided and furnished before that period. [Aurora.

We publish to day such accounts as have reached us of a severe engagement between a detachment of the American and British forces, which took place at Queenstown, in Upper Canada on the 13th instant. The official accounts not having been received, and the newspaper accounts being deficient as to particulars, we cannot make up an opinion as to the propriety of invading the enemy's territory with so small a force as appears to have been employed. But we can at least say, the battle was well fought, and that the Americans stood their ground eleven hours against a much greater force of civilized and savage enemies, before they yielded to the superiority of numbers; and then only from a failure of the militia, as it is said, to move to their assistance. The American raw troops, in contact with the British veterans, distinguished themselves by firmness and bravery. They have done honor to their country and themselves, and long will the enemy remember the heights of Queenstown, where fell their accomplished General Brock. In our next we shall doubtless be able to present more particular accounts, if not the official details of this action. [Nat. Int.

From the Antigua Gazette.

Advertisement Extraordinary.

Such Gentlemen as may please to approve of the Petition published in the Journal of the 16th, and proposed to be presented to his Excellency the Governor, praying the interference of the ex-

ecutive Government in the present awful circumstances of the Country, threatened with (and indeed already experiencing) a dearth of provisions; are informed that a paper for insertion is left at the Gazette and Journal offices, and it is requested that they will sign promptly, that the same may be transmitted without delay.

They are moreover informed that the executive Government, from the secrecy and promptitude of its operations and more especially according to British usages, is that branch of the government which ought to carry into effect such measures as may be consented to by the other branches, in order to avert the greatest calamity that can impend over the population of the country, or for any other general purpose whatsoever.

Sept. 21. 1812. W. WHITE.

The Gentlemen's Musical Repository.

THE subscriber begs leave to inform the public that the above work is now in considerable forwardness, and will be ready for delivery on the 1st of December next. The very extensive patronage which he has met, made it requisite to enlarge the number intended for the first edition, 500 copies, and consequently produced an unexpected delay in the publication. The size of the work has also (as a proof of the author's gratitude) been enlarged from 30 pages half quarto, to 48 pages quarto, being an increase of eight quarto pages—this form will also be more convenient to the musician.

Gentlemen wishing to subscribe for this work, will please to direct by letters, post paid, to the Shamrock Office 24 William-street, New-York. CHARLES P. F. O'HARA.

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